cranial nerve exam slp

Mastering the Cranial Nerve Exam SLP: A Guide for Speech-Language Pathologists

cranial nerve exam slp is a fundamental component in the assessment toolkit of speech-language pathologists (SLPs). This exam plays a crucial role in evaluating the integrity of cranial nerves that directly influence speech, swallowing, and facial muscles. Understanding this exam not only empowers SLPs to pinpoint neurological deficits but also aids in tailoring effective treatment plans for patients with communication and swallowing disorders.

If you're an SLP or a student stepping into the clinical world, grasping the nuances of the cranial nerve exam is essential. This article dives deep into the process, significance, and practical tips for conducting a thorough cranial nerve examination in speech-language pathology.

Why the Cranial Nerve Exam Matters in Speech-Language Pathology

Speech and swallowing functions are intricately controlled by various cranial nerves. Any disruption in these nerves can manifest as dysarthria, dysphagia, facial weakness, or even voice changes. The cranial nerve exam helps SLPs detect such impairments early, ensuring timely intervention.

Moreover, this exam bridges the gap between neurological findings and functional communication. It provides a window into how nerve damage translates into real-world speech or swallowing difficulties, allowing for a targeted and holistic therapy approach.

Understanding the Role of Each Cranial Nerve in Communication

There are twelve cranial nerves, but several are particularly relevant to speech-language pathology:

- **Cranial Nerve V (Trigeminal):** Controls jaw movement and sensation, important for articulation and chewing.
- **Cranial Nerve VII (Facial):** Governs facial expressions, lip movement, and taste on the anterior two-thirds of the tongue.
- **Cranial Nerve IX (Glossopharyngeal):** Influences swallowing and taste on the posterior third of the tongue.
- **Cranial Nerve X (Vagus):** Plays a major role in voice production, swallowing, and parasympathetic control of the larynx and pharynx.
- **Cranial Nerve XI (Accessory):** Controls muscles involved in head and shoulder movement, indirectly affecting posture during speech.
- **Cranial Nerve XII (Hypoglossal):** Controls tongue movements crucial for articulation and bolus manipulation during swallowing.

Having a solid grasp of these nerves helps SLPs understand clinical presentations and refine their diagnostic accuracy.

Performing the Cranial Nerve Exam SLP Style

The cranial nerve exam tailored for speech-language pathology focuses on functional assessment relevant to communication and swallowing. Here’s a step-by-step approach to conducting the exam effectively.

Preparation and Patient Positioning

Before you begin, ensure the patient is comfortably seated in a well-lit, quiet environment. Explain the purpose of the exam in simple terms to reduce anxiety and encourage cooperation. Have necessary tools ready, such as a tongue depressor, penlight, gloves, and a mirror.

Step 1: Assessing Cranial Nerve V (Trigeminal)

- **Motor:** Ask the patient to open their mouth and move the jaw side to side. Check for symmetry, strength, and any deviation.
- **Sensory:** Lightly touch the forehead, cheeks, and jaw on both sides with a cotton ball or finger. Ask if the sensation feels the same on both sides.

Step 2: Evaluating Cranial Nerve VII (Facial)

- Request the patient to perform facial movements: raise eyebrows, close eyes tightly, smile, puff out cheeks, and whistle.
- Observe for asymmetry, weakness, or drooping, which can indicate facial nerve involvement.

Step 3: Testing Cranial Nerves IX (Glossopharyngeal) and X (Vagus)

- Use a penlight to observe the soft palate and uvula while the patient says “ah.” The soft palate should rise symmetrically; a deviation may indicate nerve impairment.
- Check the gag reflex by gently stimulating the posterior pharynx.
- Listen for voice quality changes such as hoarseness or breathiness.

Step 4: Assessing Cranial Nerve XI (Accessory)

- Ask the patient to turn their head against resistance and shrug their shoulders.
- Note muscle strength and any asymmetry.

Step 5: Examining Cranial Nerve XII (Hypoglossal)

- Have the patient stick out their tongue and move it side to side.
- Look for deviation, atrophy, or fasciculations that may signal hypoglossal nerve dysfunction.

Integrating Cranial Nerve Exam Findings Into Clinical Practice

Beyond simply identifying abnormalities, the cranial nerve exam informs diagnosis and intervention strategies. For example, if a patient demonstrates weak lip closure and reduced facial movement (Cranial Nerve VII involvement), therapy might emphasize strengthening oral musculature and compensatory techniques to improve articulation and swallowing safety.

Similarly, impaired vagus nerve function causing vocal fold paralysis would necessitate collaboration with otolaryngologists and may lead to voice therapy or surgical consultation.

Tips for Effective Cranial Nerve Assessment

- **Be patient and observant:** Some signs are subtle and may require repeated assessments.
- **Use functional tasks:** Incorporate speech and swallowing tasks to correlate nerve function with real-world abilities.

- **Document carefully:** Detailed notes help track progression or recovery over time.

- **Collaborate with the healthcare team:** Share findings with neurologists, ENT specialists, and occupational therapists for comprehensive care.

The Importance of Cranial Nerve Exam in Neurological Disorders

Many neurological conditions, such as stroke, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, and brain tumors, can impact cranial nerve function. The cranial nerve exam allows SLPs to detect specific deficits early, contributing to a more accurate neurological diagnosis and setting realistic therapy goals.

For instance, in post-stroke patients, identifying impaired cranial nerve function can explain difficulties like dysphagia or dysarthria, and guide safe feeding strategies or targeted speech therapy.

Advancements and Tools Supporting the Cranial Nerve Exam

Technology is enhancing cranial nerve assessment for SLPs. Tools such as high-resolution endoscopy and electromyography (EMG) complement the physical exam by providing visual and electrical data on nerve and muscle function.

Telepractice also enables remote cranial nerve exams, especially valuable in underserved areas, though it requires careful adaptation to maintain exam quality.

Final Thoughts on the Cranial Nerve Exam SLP Approach

Mastering the cranial nerve exam is an indispensable skill for speech-language pathologists. It bridges neurological understanding with functional communication assessment, providing invaluable insights into a patient's condition. By conducting thorough and nuanced cranial nerve exams, SLPs can enhance diagnostic accuracy, tailor interventions, and ultimately improve patient outcomes in speech and swallowing disorders.

Whether you're a seasoned clinician or a student, embracing the complexity and clinical relevance of this exam will elevate your practice and deepen your impact on patients' lives.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of a cranial nerve exam in speech-language pathology (SLP)?

The cranial nerve exam in SLP is conducted to assess the integrity and function of the cranial nerves that affect speech, swallowing, and facial movements. It helps identify neurological impairments that may impact communication and swallowing abilities.

Which cranial nerves are most commonly evaluated during an SLP cranial nerve exam?

SLPs commonly evaluate cranial nerves V (trigeminal), VII (facial), IX (glossopharyngeal), X (vagus), XI (accessory), and XII (hypoglossal) because these nerves control muscles involved in speech, swallowing, and facial movements.

How is cranial nerve VII (facial nerve) assessed during a speech-language pathology exam?

Cranial nerve VII is assessed by asking the patient to perform facial movements such as smiling, frowning, puffing out cheeks, and closing eyes tightly. This evaluates facial muscle strength and symmetry, important for articulation and nonverbal communication.

What signs during a cranial nerve exam might indicate dysphagia in a patient?

Signs include weak or asymmetrical gag reflex (cranial nerves IX and X), poor tongue movement or atrophy (cranial nerve XII), and reduced pharyngeal elevation. These findings suggest impaired swallowing function.

Can speech-language pathologists perform a complete cranial nerve exam independently?

SLPs typically perform a focused cranial nerve exam related to speech and swallowing functions. While they do not perform a full neurological exam, their assessment provides critical information for diagnosis and treatment planning.

What are common challenges in conducting a cranial nerve exam for SLP patients?

Challenges include patient cooperation, especially with pediatric or cognitively impaired individuals, subtle or mild nerve dysfunctions that are hard to detect, and differentiating between central and peripheral nerve lesions affecting speech and swallowing.

Additional Resources

Cranial Nerve Exam SLP: A Critical Component in Speech-Language Pathology Assessment

cranial nerve exam slp plays a pivotal role in the comprehensive evaluation of patients experiencing speech, language, and swallowing difficulties. As speech-language pathologists (SLPs) frequently encounter individuals with neurological impairments, understanding and performing a detailed cranial nerve examination is fundamental to establishing accurate diagnoses and effective intervention strategies. This article delves into the intricacies of the cranial nerve exam within the scope of speech-language pathology, highlighting its significance, methodology, and practical applications in clinical practice.

Understanding the Cranial Nerve Exam in Speech-Language Pathology

The cranial nerve examination conducted by SLPs targets the functional integrity of the twelve cranial nerves, many of which directly influence speech production, voice quality, resonance, and swallowing mechanisms. Unlike a purely neurological assessment, the cranial nerve exam as applied by speech-language pathologists focuses on evaluating motor and sensory functions related to communication and feeding. This specialized evaluation is essential when neurological disorders such as stroke, traumatic brain injury, neurodegenerative diseases, or tumors affect cranial nerve function.

Speech-language pathologists utilize the cranial nerve exam to identify deficits in muscle strength, coordination, sensation, and reflexes that may underlie dysarthria, dysphagia, apraxia of speech, or other communication disorders. Early detection of cranial nerve impairments facilitates timely intervention, which can markedly improve patient outcomes.

Key Cranial Nerves Assessed by SLPs

While all twelve cranial nerves hold clinical importance, several are particularly critical in the domain of speech-language pathology:

- **Cranial Nerve V (Trigeminal)**: Assesses jaw strength and sensation, essential for mastication and articulation.
- **Cranial Nerve VII (Facial)**: Evaluates facial muscle movement, affecting facial expression and lip closure.
- **Cranial Nerve IX (Glossopharyngeal)**: Important for the gag reflex, pharyngeal sensation, and taste, influencing swallowing safety.
- **Cranial Nerve X (Vagus)**: Controls vocal fold function and pharyngeal constriction, critical for voice and swallowing.
- **Cranial Nerve XI (Accessory)**: Contributes to head and shoulder movement, indirectly affecting posture during speech and swallowing.
- **Cranial Nerve XII (Hypoglossal)**: Governs tongue movement, a key factor in articulation and bolus manipulation.

Methodology and Techniques in the Cranial Nerve Exam for SLPs

The cranial nerve exam performed by speech-language pathologists is both observational and interactive. It integrates standardized protocols with clinical judgment tailored to the patient's presenting symptoms and medical history.

Visual and Motor Assessments

SLPs observe facial symmetry at rest and during voluntary movements such as smiling, puffing cheeks, and lip rounding. They assess jaw strength by asking patients to open and close their mouths against resistance. Tongue mobility is tested by instructing patients to protrude, retract, and move the tongue laterally, noting any deviations, tremors, or weakness.

Sensory and Reflex Testing

Although SLPs do not perform comprehensive sensory testing as neurologists do, they evaluate pertinent reflexes like the gag reflex to assess cranial nerves IX and X. Sensory input related to oral sensation may be informally assessed by observing responses to tactile stimuli within the oral cavity, which is relevant to swallowing safety.

Voice and Speech Function Correlation

The cranial nerve exam is often combined with instrumental assessments such as videostroboscopy or fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing (FEES) to observe vocal fold function and pharyngeal anatomy. These tools provide objective data that complement the clinical cranial nerve exam, enabling a holistic understanding of dysfunction.

Clinical Applications and Implications

A thorough cranial nerve exam conducted by an SLP has several practical benefits in clinical settings:

Diagnostic Clarification

Differentiating among types of dysarthria (spastic, flaccid, ataxic, hypokinetic, hyperkinetic, or mixed) requires careful analysis of cranial nerve function. For example, flaccid dysarthria often results from lower motor neuron lesions affecting cranial nerves, which manifest as weakness or hypotonia in muscles of speech and swallowing.

Intervention Planning

Identifying which cranial nerves are compromised guides the development of targeted therapy goals. For instance, hypoglossal nerve weakness might necessitate tongue strengthening exercises, while vagus nerve impairment may require techniques to improve vocal fold closure and airway protection during swallowing.

Monitoring Progress and Prognosis

Repeated cranial nerve exams enable SLPs to track changes in neurological status over time, informing adjustments in treatment plans and providing prognostic information to patients and caregivers.

Challenges and Considerations in Cranial Nerve Exams by SLPs

While the cranial nerve exam is indispensable, certain challenges exist in its application by speech-language pathologists:

- **Overlap of Neurological Symptoms:** Some cranial nerve impairments present with subtle or overlapping symptoms, complicating differential diagnosis.
- **Limited Sensory Testing:** SLPs generally focus on motor and reflexive components, potentially missing nuanced sensory deficits.
- **Patient Cooperation:** Cognitive impairments or reduced alertness can hinder the reliability of the examination.
- **Interdisciplinary Coordination:** Collaboration with neurologists, otolaryngologists, and radiologists is essential to complement the cranial nerve exam findings.

Technological Advances Enhancing Cranial Nerve Assessment

Recent advancements such as high-resolution imaging and neurophysiological studies augment traditional cranial nerve examinations. Electromyography (EMG) can detect subtle muscle denervation, while advanced imaging modalities help visualize nerve integrity. Integration of these technologies with the clinical exam enhances diagnostic precision.

Training and Competency in Cranial Nerve Exam for SLPs

Proficiency in cranial nerve examination is a core competence for speech-language pathologists working with neurologically impaired populations. Comprehensive training during graduate education and continuing professional development ensures SLPs maintain up-to-date knowledge of anatomy, pathology, and assessment techniques. Simulation labs, workshops, and interdisciplinary case reviews contribute to skill refinement.

Standardized Assessment Tools

Several validated tools support systematic cranial nerve evaluation in speech-language pathology, including:

- **Oral Mechanism Examination protocols:** Structured checklists for assessing strength, range of motion, and coordination.
- **Frenchay Dysarthria Assessment (FDA):** Incorporates cranial nerve function in its scoring system.
- **National Outcomes Measurement System (NOMS):** Tracks functional changes related to cranial nerve impairment.

These instruments facilitate consistency and comparability in clinical practice and research.

Integrating Cranial Nerve Exam Findings into Holistic Patient

Care

The cranial nerve exam is not an isolated procedure but part of a broader diagnostic framework. SLPs synthesize findings from the cranial nerve exam with patient history, cognitive assessments, and instrumental data to formulate comprehensive care plans. Collaboration with rehabilitation teams ensures that interventions address the multifaceted needs of patients with neurological communication and swallowing disorders.

In summary, the cranial nerve exam within speech-language pathology is an indispensable, multifaceted tool that supports accurate diagnosis, guides therapeutic interventions, and informs prognosis for patients with neurological impairments affecting communication and swallowing. Mastery of this examination, combined with evolving technological aids and interdisciplinary collaboration, positions the SLP as a vital contributor to neurological rehabilitation and patient quality of life.

Cranial Nerve Exam Slp

cranial nerve exam slp: *Neuroanatomy for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology* Matthew H Rouse, 2019-01-30 Neuroanatomy for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, Second Edition is specifically tailored to the needs of Communication Sciences and Disorders students. Updated with the latest research, it includes foundational knowledge of general neuroanatomy with a focus that is relevant to both audience

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consume thick liquids and chopped up foods. Guess what? You're not alone. Far from it. It's estimated that over ten million Americans are evaluated for swallowing disorders (dysphagia) each year. But if this is so common, why does it feel so lonely, scary, and frustrating? So You're Having Trouble Swallowing dives into the facts and frustrations of dysphagia and dysphagia therapy. Theresa Richard, author and dysphagia expert, is a speech-language pathologist who is board certified in swallowing and swallowing disorders. She is also a life-long advocate for her son who lives with a swallowing disorder. After years of clinical practice and fighting for her family, she realized a common thread in the world of swallowing disorders: a large gap exists between research and clinical practice. This gap is harming patients. Using her frustrations and expertise to fuel the flame, Theresa decided to change the way people receive care for their dysphagia by writing this book for you- the patient or caregiver. This book will teach you the essential information about swallowing, testing, treatment options, and how to advocate for the best care available. Dysphagia is far more than "just a disorder." It's a life-altering diagnosis that impacts social gatherings, holidays, family meals, and freedom. It can lead to hospitalizations, high medical costs, and depression. It steals a part of your identity and robs you of one of life's greatest joys. But it doesn't have to. Use this book to guide your questions. Find the right information to charge your advocacy. Most importantly, learn through Theresa's expertise and personal journey to get several steps closer to enjoying meals with your family once again.

cranial nerve exam slp: Medical Speech-Language Pathology Across the Care Continuum Alex F. Johnson, Barbara H. Jacobson, Megan E. Schliep, Bridget J. Perry, 2023-01-31 This exciting new text offers a comprehensive, engaging, and readable overview to the dynamic field of medical speech-language pathology. It is the first medical speech-language pathology textbook that is not focused on the various disorders, but instead examines the scope and key concepts of the profession, such as clinical reasoning, interprofessional practice, and the continuum of care. The book provides an in-depth overview of health care workplace settings (acute care, inpatient rehabilitation, skilled nursing, home health, outpatient care, pediatric service delivery, pharmacology, and neuroimaging). The text also includes numerous case studies that instructors and students can use to explore application of both clinical- and setting-specific principles as a primer for practice in "the real world." Key Features: * Chapters are authored by respected experts within both academia and medical speech-language pathology * Numerous figures, tables, and photos enhance readers' visual learning experience * Boxed focal points highlight areas of emphasis, special practice considerations, competencies, and cases * Case studies, where students are introduced to patient assessment, treatment, and management examples across the care continuum * An Appendix listing common medical test procedures and reference values. Medical Speech-Language Pathology Across the Care Continuum: An Introduction is also helpful for speech-language pathologists transitioning from a school-based or private practice setting into health care.

cranial nerve exam slp: *Clinical Care and Rehabilitation in Head and Neck Cancer* Philip C. Doyle, 2019-03-21 Malignancies involving structures of the head and neck frequently impact the most fundamental aspects of human existence, namely, those functions related to voice and speech production, eating, and swallowing. Abnormalities in voice production, and in some instances its complete loss, are common following treatment for laryngeal (voice box) cancer. Similarly, speech, eating, and swallowing may be dramatically disrupted in those where oral structures (e.g., the tongue, jaw, hard palate, pharynx, etc.) are surgically ablated to eliminate the cancer. Consequently, the range and degree of deficits that may be experienced secondary to the treatment of head and neck cancer (HNCa) are often substantial. This need is further reinforced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who have estimated that the number of individuals who will be newly diagnosed with HNCa will now double every 10 years. This estimate becomes even more critical given that an increasing number of those who arenewly diagnosed will be younger and will experience the possibility of long-term survival post-treatment. Contemporary rehabilitation efforts for those treated for HNCa increasingly demand that clinicians actively consider and address multiple issues. Beyond the obvious concerns specific to any type of cancer (i.e., the desire for

curative treatment), clinical efforts that address physical, psychological, communicative, and social consequences secondary to HNCa treatment are essential components of all effective rehabilitation programs. Comprehensive HNCa rehabilitation ultimately seeks to restore multiple areas of functioning in the context of the disabling effects of treatment. In this regard, rehabilitation often focuses on restoration of function while reducing the impact of residual treatment-related deficits on the individual's overall functioning, well-being, quality of life (QOL), and ultimately, optimize survivorship. Regardless of the treatment method(s) pursued for HNCa (e.g., surgery, radiotherapy, chemoradiation, or combined methods), additional problems beyond those associated with voice, speech, eating and swallowing frequently exist. For example, post-treatment changes in areas such as breathing, maintaining nutrition, limitations in physical capacity because surgical reconstruction such as deficits in shoulder functioning, concerns specific to cosmetic alterations and associated disfigurement, and deficits in body image are common. Those treated for HNCa also may experience significant pain, depression, stigma and subsequent social isolation. Concerns of this type have led clinicians and researchers to describe HNCa as the most emotionally traumatic form of cancer. It is, therefore, essential that clinicians charged with the care and rehabilitation of those treated for HNCa actively seek to identify, acknowledge, and systematically address a range of physical, psychological, social, and communication problems. Efforts that systematically consider this range of post-treatment sequelae are seen as critical to any effort directed toward enhanced rehabilitation outcomes. Actively and purposefully addressing post-treatment challenges may increase the likelihood of both short- and long-term rehabilitation success in this challenging clinical population. Current information suggests that successful clinical outcomes for those with HNCa are more likely to be realized when highly structured, yet flexible interdisciplinary programs of care are pursued. Yet contemporary educational resources that focus not only on management of voice, speech, eating, and swallowing disorders, but also address issues such as shoulder dysfunction due to neck dissection, the significant potential for cosmetic alterations can offer a much broader perspective on rehabilitation. Contemporary surgical treatment frequently involves reconstruction with extensive procedures that require donor sites that include both soft tissue from a variety of locations (e.g., forearm, thigh, etc.), as well as bone (e.g., the scapula). Collectively, resources that address these issues and many other concerns and the resultant social implications of HNCa and its treatment can serve to establish a comprehensive framework for clinical care. Consequently, providing a highly specialized and comprehensive educational resource specific to HNCa rehabilitation is currently needed. The proposed edited book is designed to address this void in a single authoritative resource that is also accessible to the clinical readership. Integral to this proposed book is information that guides clinical approaches to HNCa rehabilitation, in addition to offering emphasis on the direct impact of changes in voice, speech, and swallowing and the impact of such losses on outcomes. Finally, while several other published sources currently exist (see attached list), the emphasis of these books is directed either toward the identification and diagnosisof malignant disease, clinical and surgical pathology, associated efforts directed toward biomedical aspects of cancer and its treatment, or those with a focus on a single clinical problem or approach to rehabilitation. Therefore, the content of the proposed multi-chapter text centers on delivering a systematically structured, comprehensive, and clinically-oriented presentation on a range of topics that will provide readers at a variety of levels with a strong, well-integrated, and empirically driven foundation to optimize the clinical care of those with HNCa. The primary audience for this textbook is undergraduate and graduate-level students in Speech-Language Pathology, as well as practitioners, especially hospital-based practitioners, in Speech-Language Pathology; other key audiences include junior and senior level otolaryngology residents and fellows, translational researchers in head and neck cancer, related medical specialists (e.g., radiation oncology), oncology nurses, and potentially other rehabilitation professionals such as occupational therapists, counseling psychologists, social workers, and rehabilitation counselors.

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Disorders: From Science to Clinical Practice, Fifth Edition is the ideal introductory text for undergraduate students enrolled in their first course in communication sciences and disorders. Written by experts in the field, this text contains fundamental information about speech disorders that are related to impairments in articulation, voice, and fluency, while providing the essential information on the speech, language, and hearing sciences combined with practical information about assessment and intervention practices. This new edition provides readers with a wide-angle view of communication disorders, covering the variety of topics that speech, language, and hearing scientists study, and the variety of individuals that Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists treat.

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fascinating family of twelve nerves that have a dramatic impact on our daily lives. A dysfunction of the cranial nerves can cause loss of vision or double vision, loss of smell, poor balance, or loss of muscle function, and can also be an indicator of underlying neurological disorders. The Clinical Anatomy of the Cranial Nerves: The Nerves of On Old Olympus Towering Top is an engaging and accessible book on the anatomy and clinical importance of these unique nerves. The text opens with a brief introduction of key neuroanatomical concepts that relate the clinical and anatomical sections that follow. Additionally, this book uniquely provides a detailed description of the bones of the head and face in order for the reader to understand the routes taken by the cranial nerves through the skull. Chapters then detail each nerve and its unique impact in relationship to our senses, motor function, and health. Vividly illustrated and supported by real-life clinical cases, the book will appeal to anyone wishing to gain a better understanding of the cranial nerves. Merging anatomical and clinical information with intriguing clinical cases, The Clinical Anatomy of the Cranial Nerves: The Nerves of On Old Olympus Towering Top introduces readers to the anatomy and diverse function of this intriguing family of nerves.

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an organized plan for the current and future needs of individuals with chronic health care needs. It can serve as a roadmap for the families, caregivers, therapists, physicians, and others involved with the ongoing care of a special needs child. Pediatric Life Care Planning and Case Mana

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cranial nerve exam slp: Biomarkers and Clinical Indicators in Motor Neuron Disease Pierre-Francois Pradat, Peter Bede, 2020-01-24

cranial nerve exam slp: Practical Neurology Biller, 2012 This book is a practical, concise alternative to existing neurology textbooks. The outline format and standard chapter template offers the reader immediate, comprehensive information. The author is a well-respected educator who has a talent for making neurologic information accessible and understandable. Significant changes have been made to the therapeutics/management portion of the book as well as specific diagnosis-related chapters have been updated. More tables and figures allow the reader to find the information quickly. This book sits between a handbook and a textbook and distinguishes itself in its presentation of material in a problem-oriented format: 35 chapters discuss how to approach the patient with a variety of disorders; the second half of the book discusses treatment options.

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